

# ARIZONA RACING COMMISSION

618<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2013

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

A public meeting of the Arizona Racing Commission was convened on Wednesday, January 9, 2013, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Director's Hearing Room, Suite 260, at 1110 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007.

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<b>Burton S. Kruglick</b>
	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Jay McClintock</b>
	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Erin Owens</b>
	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Rory S. Goreé (Telephonically)</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>A. Melvin McDonald</b>

Also present: William J. Walsh, Director, Assistant Attorney General Elizabeth Campbell and Cassie Goodwin, Commission Secretary.

### A. Call to Order

**Vice Chair Kruglick** called the 618<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Arizona Racing Commission to order at 10:02 a.m. The following matters were discussed, considered and decided at the meeting:

#### Approval of the Minutes:

1. Minutes of the 617<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 – **Commissioner Owens** moved to approve the minutes. **Commissioner McClintock** seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

### B. New Business

#### 1. Tucson Greyhound Park, Inc. Request to Amend 2013 Race Dates

**Director Walsh** stated that Tom Taylor of Tucson Greyhound Park, Inc. has requested an amendment to their approved race schedule for the 2013 racing season at Tucson Greyhound Park (TGP). Due to a lack of female greyhounds and kennels, TGP is having a difficult time filling races. TGP is requesting that, effective January 16, 2013, all Tuesdays and Thursdays change from live racing to dark day simulcasting. The proposed racing schedule is for live racing on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday and dark day simulcasting on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. **Commissioner McClintock** moved to approve the request and amend Tucson Greyhound Park's race schedule effective January 16, 2013 so that all Tuesday and Thursdays change from live racing to dark day simulcasting. **Commissioner Goreé** seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**Director Walsh** said this appears to be a necessity in order to maintain racing at TGP and the Department is supportive of the request.

### C. Information Reports:

#### 1. Update on Purchase of Yavapai Downs

**Director Walsh** stated that Gary Miller, who presently still is the HPBA President, has expressed a strong interest in purchasing Yavapai Downs. He hasn't completed the purchase, but is in the due diligence stage. Mr. Miller wanted to present some information to the Commission at this meeting. He stated that since the Department does not have an application in hand, the Department and Commission can't do anything. It's getting late in the year and there is a need to start the process. With that, he turned the floor over to Mr. Miller so he could comment on his proposed application.

**Gary Miller** addressed the Commission. He stated he is the prospective buyer for Yavapai Downs and will be submitting his application within the next week or so. He is seeking assistance from the Commission on obtaining approval to move from a "traditional" racing schedule/calendar to a non-traditional one of 68 live and 68 dark days.

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**Assistant Attorney General Elizabeth Campbell** cautioned the Commission that the application is not on the Agenda; therefore it would not be appropriate to indicate how they would decide on that application should it be filed.

## **2. Medication / Drug Testing at Turf Paradise**

**Director Walsh** stated that starting with the opening of the race meeting at Turf Paradise September 28, the Department of Racing instituted new threshold limits for many medications and drugs commonly used by horsemen and their vets. This was done because it became apparent both nationally and locally that there was some abuse in the use of many medications which was not in the best interest of those involved in this industry. It did not take a lot of time for the horsemen and their vets to adjust to the new threshold limits. Also, in December the Department instituted a testing regimen for TCO<sub>2</sub> (total carbon dioxide), commonly referred to as "milk shaking". This was done with the cooperation of the HBPA and has gone relatively smoothly. He then asked Animal & Medical Welfare Advisor Scot Waterman, DVM, who compiled facts and stats for the first three months of the race meeting to address the Commission.

**Dr. Waterman** addressed the Commission and explaining how urine and plasma samples are collected post-race and subjected to rigorous analysis by Industrial Laboratories. As of December 11, 602 post-race samples have been collected from the 51 cards, which is an average of 11.8 samples per card. He provided a monthly breakdown of the number of samples collected, number of positive tests and the percentage. The Department is tracking a variety of metrics to determine the effect of this testing program. Based on preliminary results, it appears the testing program is having the desired effect of deterring the administration of milkshakes pre-race.

**Commissioner Owens** stated she appreciated everybody's efforts in this process.

**Director Walsh** thanked his Stewards and Dr. Waterman for all their work in doing this. The Department is intent on having clean racing here in Arizona. Finally, he stated that as of Monday, January 7, 2013, Scot Waterman, DVM, became a full-time employee of the Department.

**Vice Chair Kruglick** stated that he wanted to give Dr. Waterman a "Big A" for the job he is doing. Dr. Waterman thanked him and Director Walsh.

## **C. Commission Reports:**

**Director Walsh** stated that the Department is still working on the Turf Paradise renewal application. He expects to have all the documentation in by January 31, 2013, and hopefully to have the matter on the March agenda for consideration.

## **Future Agenda Items:**

Opening of Rillito Race Track

Racinos

Permittee/Industry Stakeholders Reports

The next regular Commission meeting will be held **Wednesday, March 13, 2013, at 10:00 a.m.** in Building Conference Room Suite 250, at 1110 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007.

## **Call to the Public:**

The following individuals addressed the Commission in support of Gary Miller: Steve Pierce, President of the Arizona Senate; Larry Tarkowski, Town Manager, Prescott Valley; Harvey Skoog, Mayor, Prescott Valley; Mike Wirth; Kevin Eikleberry; Tom Metzen, Executive Director, HBPA; Loretta Brasher, Executive Director AZ Quarter Racing Association; Ralph Bales, President AZ Quarter Racing Association; Patty Shirley, Rillito Race Track; Dove Ward, Executive Director, AZ Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

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## Adjournment:

**Vice Chair Kruglick** called for a Motion to Adjourn. **Commissioner McClintock** moved to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Owens** seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

This public meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013

Arizona Racing Commission

By   
Cassie Goodwin, Commission Secretary